

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CAM USHER

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Cam Usher, who is retiring after a long and distinguished career of promoting tourism in Las Vegas.

Cam Usher has been working for the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority in a multitude of capacities for the past 25 years. Since 2004, Cam has directed sales and marketing for the authority's international offices in Austria, England, France, Germany, Japan, Mexico, and South Korea. Since her career began with the authority in 1980, she has run everything from convention and special event sales to the authority's research department and the Las Vegas News Bureau. Most recently, Cam has actively recruited new international air service in conjunction with McCarren International Airport; her efforts have made it easier for travelers to come here to visit from diverse locations. During her tenure, she received a number of accolades, such as being named to the Travel Agent Magazine's "Most Powerful Women in Travel" list 3 years in a row. Cam's professional successes should not over shadow her philanthropic endeavors; her generosity is profoundly evident in everything she does, whether it is introducing friends to potential clients or creating job opportunities of local youth.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Cam Usher for her illustrious career and contributions to the development of the international tourism industry in Las Vegas. I wish her the best in her retirement.

HEALTH CENTERS RENEWAL AMENDMENTS OF 2006

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleague from Florida, Mr. BILIRAKIS, in introducing the Health Centers Renewal Amendments of 2006. This important legislation will re-authorize the Health Center program through fiscal year 2011 and enable us to build on the tremendous successes that the health centers have already achieved.

With 46 million Americans currently living without health insurance, health centers have become a critical feature of our country's safety net. Of the more than 14 million Americans served by health centers, 75 percent are either uninsured or Medicaid beneficiaries. In fact, more than 90 percent of health center clients have incomes below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. Without health centers to provide quality primary and preventive care,

these folks would most likely forgo health care and end up in our hospital emergency rooms.

Health centers are not free clinics. While health centers do not turn away patients due to an inability to pay, every patient pays something based on a sliding scale. This policy improves both financial and health outcomes, ensuring that patients are invested in their health care and follow the doctor's orders.

Another critical feature of the health center program is the community board. For approval and funding as a federally-qualified health center, a center must have put in place a board of directors whose membership is at least 51 percent comprised of health center patients. While communities may initially view this aspect of the health center program as a significant hurdle, this requirement ensures that community health centers are just that—grounded in the community. With a community board governing the health center, patients are assured that all health center policies have been developed with the needs of patients in mind. It is the complementary nature of these requirements that has helped the health center program become so effective and enjoy unprecedented bi-partisan support, from both the Congress and the Bush Administration.

Despite the accomplishments to date of the health center program, much more work needs to be done. While the number of health centers has increased by 58 percent since 1997, the number of health center patients has increased by 90 percent over the same period. There is still tremendous need and, unfortunately, the ranks of the uninsured are only growing.

In the Houston area, we now have nine federally-qualified health centers, an increase from the four centers we had in our area just one year ago. While we have celebrated that achievement, our state of Texas still has the largest percentage of uninsured individuals in the country, and many more health centers are needed in our state to meet our growing need for quality health care that is affordable. This legislation will help us address that need by ensuring the continued authorization of this important program that has improved the health of millions of our constituents.

On a personal note, I would like to thank my friend, Mr. BILIRAKIS, for all of his work over the years on behalf of our health centers. He is a tireless champion of this program, and I look forward to working with him to make sure that the reauthorization of this program is just one of the many health care accomplishments that will be part of his legacy in Congress.

TRIBUTE TO THE BARON DE KALB COUNCIL NO. 1073 OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 100th Anniversary of the

Baron De Kalb Council No. 1073 of the Knights of Columbus and to offer my thanks for the continual dedication it has shown to the southern Brooklyn communities it serves. The Baron De Kalb Council No. 1073 was founded in 1906 by Ambrose P. Rikeman, who became their first Grand Knight. It was founded on the principals of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism, principals that have been ingrained in the hearts and minds of its members ever since. The Council is named for Baron Johann De Kalb, a courageous and loyal military leader whose spirit continues to live on in the leaders of this great Council.

The Baron De Kalb Council No. 1073 has risen from its humble beginnings, when a small band of men met in Grand Knight Rikeman's house, to its present day thousands strong membership that meets at the "Baron-By-The-Sea", a property purchased by the Council in scenic Sheepshead Bay in 1949. In 1969 members were devastated to learn that a fire had destroyed their "Baron-By-The-Sea", but no fire could destroy the members commitment, dedication and desire to reach ever greater achievements for their beloved Council. In 1973 Grand Knight Gus Rogers proudly led his members into the newly built "Baron-By-the-Sea", the structure on Nostrand and Emmons Avenues that continues to provide invaluable services to its members and our southern Brooklyn community to this day.

Therefore, on Behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I congratulate the Baron De Kalb Council No. 1073 of the Knights of Columbus and all of its past and present members for 100 years of dedication and service to our community.

HONORING PETER LOJACONO

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, this Sunday, April 30, the Federation of Italian-American Societies of Western New York will hold its annual celebration. Following Sunday Mass at historic St. Anthony of Padua Church in the shadow of Buffalo City Hall, celebrants will gather at Buffalo's Adam's Mark Hotel to mark this celebration.

At this event, a truly unique person will be honored with the Association's God, Family and Country award. That person is Peter LoJacono, and I am proud, Mr. Speaker, to rise to honor Peter today.

Peter LoJacono is a lifelong resident of Western New York, having been graduated from St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute and, later, from my own alma mater, Buffalo State College. Peter has taught Italian and Spanish at Hutchison Technical High School in the Buffalo Public School system for 18 years, where he has demonstrated a commitment to his students that is second to none.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

As many people know, Mr. Speaker, Buffalo is an area rich in cultural diversity, and Buffalo's Italian American community is a critical component of that diverse tapestry. Peter's leadership within our community is strong, serving on the Board of Directors of the Italian Heritage Festival of Buffalo, where literally tens of thousands of Western New Yorkers enjoy all things Italian along Hertel Avenue in Buffalo each summer. A longtime member of the Romulus Club and the Knights of Columbus, Peter also serves as president of the Buffalo-Torremaggiore Sister Cities Association, encouraging the continuation of shared cultural exchange between Buffalo and its sister Italian city. Peter is a faithful communicant of St. Anthony of Padua Church in Buffalo, where he performs in the choir and is a leader within the parish.

While Peter's commitment to his community and to his faith is clear; most notable, however, and almost certainly his most significant point of pride, is his family. Peter's wife Francine and children Sarina and Marco are his clear pride and joy, and their life remains full of the richness and wonder that any couple with a young family could hope to enjoy.

Mr. Speaker, America is a wonderful country where immigrant people who came before us populated communities like Buffalo and Western New York, hoping for a better life than the one they left behind. My people, coming from Ireland, did it, and Peter LoJacono's people did it when they came from Italy. People like Peter realize the sacrifice that his forebears made so that he could live the vaunted American Dream, and his contribution to the community he lives in can never be overstated. On behalf of the entire membership of the House of Representatives, I want to thank Peter LoJacono for his ongoing contributions to our community, and I want to thank you, Mr. Speaker, for this opportunity to honor Peter here.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DR. WILLIAM
H. BAILEY

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. William H. Bailey for his outstanding career in music and business, but more importantly for his contributions to the Civil Rights movement. On May 2nd of this year Dr. Bailey will be recognized at the formal dedication of William H. Bailey Middle School, which is named in his honor.

Dr. Bailey was born Feb. 14, 1927, in Detroit, where his father worked in an auto factory. When his father lost his job during the Depression, the family moved to Cleveland, where Dr. Bailey grew up and learned to sing in church choirs. He finished high school at 16, and his musical talent combined with his high grades won him a voice scholarship to Morehouse University in Atlanta. While working his way through college by performing in local night clubs, Benny Goodman and John Hammond recruited him to sing with Count Basie. He then toured the "Chitlin' Circuit," performing in black communities of big cities. He had three hit records: "Danny Boy," "The Worst Blues I Ever Had," and "Blue and Sentimental."

In 1950, Basie broke up his big band and Dr. Bailey became a student at the School of Radio and Television in New York City, receiving a scholarship from American Broadcasting Company. After he wasn't hired as on-air talent he tried for technical jobs, also without luck. Then, he heard about the Moulin Rouge in Las Vegas. Although Las Vegas was highly segregated, the Moulin Rouge Casino and Hotel was open to all. Dr. Bailey co-produced a show with black entertainers that became a hit, drawing a hip, interracial crowd. But when he started this job, he had to use the service entrance to reach the TV studio. He complained and the management decided to change their racist policy. Following his news casting career, Dr. Bailey developed a reputation for starting new ventures.

In 1957, he joined KTNV—Channel 13, where he hosted a variety show, and developed Las Vegas' first dance program for teens. In 1961 he also hosted current events talk shows. From 1965 to 1971 Dr. Bailey began working as a newscaster. In 1958, Dr. Bailey began working for gubernatorial candidate Grant Sawyer. The Legislature of 1961 established a commission to find out whether discrimination existed. Gov. Sawyer realized a great asset that he had and appointed Dr. Bailey as Chairman of the new commission. In this position he set up a dealers' school using loaned gambling tables and space from Al Benedict, a Stardust executive. At Dr. Bailey's suggestion, Benedict recruited managers from other casinos as teachers. Bailey also set up training programs in radio and television jobs, and other fields. More than 1,000 jobs were opened to minorities in 2 years because of his efforts.

In 1964 Dr. Bailey opened a club at Miller and Lexington avenues in West Las Vegas, named "Sugar Hill." In 1965, Bailey bought the riot-damaged West Owens Shopping Center and converted it to the Pan-Afro Auditorium, which featured great bands, including Sonny Charles and Ray Charles. Bailey also established the Nevada Economic Development Co., which helped minority businesses get \$300 million in government grants over 19 years. This success led to a job in Washington as Associate Director of the Minority Business Development Agency. Later, President Bush made him Deputy Director, overseeing MBDA's \$66 million budget.

Proud as he is of the civil rights laws he helped pass, Dr. Bailey believes that today, learning the ropes of business, professions, and technology will do the most to improve the lives of minorities. He believes that "education is the light that blinds ignorance" and is a strong advocate for parent participation in schools, a curriculum that includes fine arts, and preparing all students for college.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Dr. William H. Bailey on the floor of the House. I commend him for his contributions to this country and thank him for his continued service to young students in southern Nevada.

A TRIBUTE TO RUSNAK
AUTOMOTIVE GROUP

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Rusnak Automotive Group in cele-

brating 40 years as a premiere automotive dealer in Southern California. Paul Rusnak opened his first location in 1959 because he saw the beginning of a fascination with European sports cars.

Over the years, his business grew to include more than 25 different automotive brands, both domestic and European. From Culver City to Pasadena, Rusnak Automotive Group has centered its market in convenient locations for our community members.

A short distance from Art Center College of Design, where many automotive designers are inspired, is the intersection of Orange Grove and Colorado Boulevard in Pasadena, California. This location is where Rusnak showcases cars such as Jaguar, Porsche, Audi, Rolls-Royce, and Bentley in historic buildings that have served as automotive dealerships since the turn of the century. The famous Walter M. Murphy Motors and Murphy Co. Coachworks of Duisenberg fame was housed where Rusnak now displays Porsches. Also, the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics has designated the Rolls-Royce dealership as one of the nation's historic aerospace sites—it was the first plant for Aerojet Engineering Corporation, which was the site of the invention of rocket fuel.

The largest automotive mall in the world houses Rusnak/Westlake and BMW, Porsche, and Audi dealerships. Rusnak Automotive Group has received many awards over the years including the first J.D. Powers "Customer Approved Retailer." But—the best awards have come from the many repeat customers who have made Rusnak the number one volume Audi dealer in the Western United States and the fastest growing Mercedes-Benz dealer in Southern California. Looking to the future, Rusnak now has a new BMW dealership on the 101 Freeway in Thousand Oaks, California.

Mr. Paul Rusnak, his daughter, Liz Rusnak Arizmendi, Vice President Public Relations, and Rusnak Automotive Group are generous supporters of many local charitable organizations, including Childrens Hospital Los Angeles, Make a Wish of Greater Los Angeles, the Pasadena POPS Orchestra, the AIDS Service Center of Los Angeles, Hillside, Methodist Hospital Foundation, the American Red Cross and the Ronald McDonald House of Pasadena.

It is my distinct honor to recognize the contributions of Rusnak Automotive Group. I ask all members to join me in congratulating Paul Rusnak and his staff for celebrating 40 years of contributions to the community and automotive industry.

IN TRIBUTE TO KIRBY GODSEY

HON. JIM MARSHALL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Dr. R. Kirby Godsey, of Macon, Georgia, who is retiring after a long, successful tenure as President of Mercer University. I rise to thank Dr. Godsey for his extraordinary wisdom, leadership and grace that blessed not only Mercer University and Middle Georgia, but me as well.

Mr. Speaker, on July 1, 1979, Kirby Godsey became the 17th president of Mercer University. For almost 27 years, Kirby guided Mercer